to convert it into an instrument for achieving genuine non-proliferation; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) In 1995, the NPT States Parties will be taking a decision regarding its extension. In statements at the ongoing 49th UN General Assembly, India has therefore urged the States Parties to use the 1995 conference to take necessary steps to convert the NPT into an instrument for achieving genuine non-proliferation. It has been reiterated that to be effective, such a global non-proliferation regime must be universal, comprehensive, non-discriminatory and linked to the goal of general and comprehensive disarmament. This is in keeping with India's consistent position that the NPT, in its present form is discriminatory and attempts to create a permanent division between the nuclear 'haves' and 'have nots'.

Sending Ambassador to Saudi Arabia

42. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the post of Indian Ambassador to Saudi Arabia has not been filled up since two years;

(b) if so, the reason for not sending an Ambassador to Saudi Arabia; and

(c) when the post of Indian Ambassador is likely to be filled up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) No, Sir. The Post of Indian Ambassador to Saudi Arabia is vacant from 1st February, 1994.

(b) and (c) The appointment of an Ambassador of India to Saudi Arabia is under process with the Saudi Arabian authorities.

Involvement of Pakistani Ship in Landing Arms and Ammuition

43. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Pakistani ship was involved in landing arms and ammunitions including RDX explosives, along the Gujarat and Maharashtra coastline as reported in the Times of India of October 13, 1994 and if so, what are the facts in this regard;

(b) whether three Pakistani ships also subsequently touched Porbandar and Vashad in Gujarat and Ratnagiri in Maharashtra;

(c) if so, what are the facts and relevant details of these cases;

(d) how many persons have been detained for these violations and what action has been taken against them, and

(e) what steps Government have taken or propose to take to detect such cases in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) to (e) Relevant information is not readily available and is being ascertained.

Visit of British and American teams to Jammu and Kashmir

44. SHRI G. Y. KRISHNAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether British and American teams of Parliamentarians/Congress visited Kashmir recently to study the militancy in Jammu and Kashmir;

(b) if so, the impressions formed by them and the outcome of the plea made by some deputations for declaring Pakistan a terrorist state, as it had abetted and sponsored terrorism in J & K forcing lakhs of people to leave their homes and hearths to save their lives and honour?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A six-member British Parliamentary delegation visited J & K from 27—29 September, 1994.

In a statement issued in India, the British Members of Parliament welcomed the efforts of Government of India to restore a democratic process in J & K and hoped that all parties would participate in elections. They urged an end to violence, and to the means to violence, and a cessation of external support for militancy. They expressed the brief and this was not a problem which could be solved in the end without dialogue between India and Pakistan. They encouraged the Governments of both countries to return to the negotiating table.

In remarks to the press on their return to London, the British MPs stated that seeing the considerable quantity of sophisticated arms which had reached the militants, there could be no doubt about Pakistan's involvement in terrorism in Kashmir. The team complimented the Government of India for its policy of transparency. They felt that the militants' aim was clearly to prevent any substantial turnout in the elections proposed to be held in J & K so that the results would not be recognized as an expression of the will of the people of Kashmir. They suggested the presence of some international observers in J & K "not to check or supervise the fairness of the elections' but to be able to reassure world opinion that the elections had not been undermined by intimidation and their results were not distorted.

US Congressman Gary L. Ackerman and Congresswoman Barbara-Rose Collins visited Srinagar and Jammu on November 16-17, 1994.

Following their trip to J & K, the Congressional delegation was of the view that as long as the election process in Kashmir was transparent and could be observed and reported upon by the international media, the demand for involving international or UN observers would not be an important issue.

The question of declaring Pakistan a terrorist State was not addressed by either of the two delegations in the context of their visits to Kashmir, and there was no public comment by them on this issue.

Rejection of offer by Pakistan to resolve Kashmir issue bilaterally

45. SHRI G. Y. KRISHNAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Pakistan Prime Minister had sent a "Special message' to the Clinton Administration urging a kind of the US mediation in resolving the Kashmir dispute;

(b) whether Pakistan Prime Minister also called for third party mediation to resolve the Kashmir issue, saying that India and Pakistan with their set positions cannot solve it by themselves;

(c) whether in a television interview in Washington Pakistan Prime Minister said a military confrontation between India and Pakistan was not going to resolve the Kashmir issue; as reported in the 'Hindustan Times' dated 21st November, 1994;

(d) whether Pakistan rejected on the same day the offer of Indian Prime Minister for holding talks to resolve bilateral matters saying that New Delhi is "insincere' in resolving the Kashmir issue;

(e) whether Pakistan rejected the Indian offer for resumption of Secretary-level talks also; and

(f) if so, how do Government propose to move in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) and (b) Pak leadership has from time to time sought mediation on J&K by various countries including the United States.

(c) to (e) Yes Sir.